



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION COMMISSION

Wednesday August 23, 2023

The meeting began at 5:05 pm.

Commission Members (in-person unless otherwise noted): Da'Ja Askew, Imani Chambers (zoom), Jess Davis, Gloria Howell (zoom), Lily Kleinlein, James Sanders **Staff:** Michelle Moss **Associates and Guests:** Debra Vance

Approval of Minutes: In-person quorum not met so minutes from July 26 will be reviewed/approved in September.

Staff Liaison Report: None

Old Business:

- A. **Update on Budget:** Michelle shared that the \$400 budget discrepancy mentioned in July was corrected by \$200 and so now the remaining \$200 will come from the larger MLK account and looks like it was an overspending issue with the Remembrance events. She will check with Michael for one final audit of the event budget but will otherwise pay that balance due.

New Business:

- A. **2024 Event Update:** Michelle officially confirmed Jesse Hagopian as the speaker and is now finalizing logistics and a theme with them. She will use past year contracts and documents to fill in the gaps for this year. A specific theme is usually chosen that represents the day and the speaker's experience is considered. Michelle suggested something related to recent backslides in civil rights and equity with Supreme Court decisions (affirmative action, women's rights, voting rights, etc). Jess and Michelle plan to meet in the coming weeks to discuss timeline and updates for the curriculum and this could tie into the theme as well. Commissioners should send theme ideas to Michelle in the coming weeks via email.
- Michelle noted that it has been recommended to move to an earlier time than 7pm since the event ends too late for many in the community and for dinner with the keynote speaker after. All agreed that doors opening at 5:30 and event starting at 6:00pm would be a good change. Michelle reminded that we agreed last month not to do a catered reception before the event but asked about concessions. We discussed whether we would want to pay for a free drink and popcorn for each attendee, open the concession stand in general, or to not offer any food at all. We decided to move forward with free popcorn and a drink ahead of the event for those who want to come early; from 5:30-6:00 doors open and popcorn/drinks would be served, event begins at 6:00pm. We also need to decide if we want to have an intermission or not. All decided that an intermission isn't necessary but perhaps inserting some component right before the keynote that allows the podium to be moved to center stage (video, volunteer acknowledgement, etc...).
- B. **Sponsor List and Fundraising Letter:** Michelle sent and presented the previous year sponsors and sponsorship letter with updated content for review. At a recent meeting we discussed personally signing or leaving a note on the sponsorship letters for a better return rate. She is open to suggestions for changing the letter and will create a google document that we can all read and leave comments on. Gloria asked the commission to send changes, suggestions, and updates by next week and to review/sign up the list of potential sponsors for personal notes.
- C. **IU Football Day:** Michelle said that IU football will give free tickets (October 21 noon game) to anyone who participates in the state flag presentation. Would arrive at 10am for a tour, a training, and be part of the pre-game

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flag presentation. She needs final numbers by the first week of September to share with IU, so if anyone is interested, confirm with her before that time. We could participate as a commission or individually.

Public Comments (non-MLK Commissioners): None

NAACP Update: Imani shared that IU NAACP kickstarted their year and she is the new President of the organization. As they create their roster of events she will share those with the commission. She shared numerous events that the Monroe County Branch will be sponsoring, tabling, or participating in. All are welcome and she recommended that we all sign up to receive the e-newsletter for updates from Monroe Co. NAACP and join social media for IU NAACP.

- August 26: Women's Market in the morning; Pride Fest in the afternoon
- September 7: Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting
- September 9: Black and Brown Arts Festival; Volunteer Network Fair; Community conversation on racial justice with the Monroe County Prosecutors Office (she highly recommends attending this dialog)
- September 16: Monroe County Fall Festival
- November: Potential collaboration with IU NAACP

Commission on the Status of Black Males Update: James said they held the Million Father March earlier in August and it was well received by students and staff at Fairview. He said that registration is open for middle and high school students for the Black Male Youth Summit on September 14 (10-2). They are also beginning to plan the Winter Wonderland and will again partner with several other groups for this fun holiday themed event.

Announcements:

- Gloria announced that NMC is hosting Imoja Day (open to volunteer, tabling, participating) on September 16 from 2-5. A fun opportunity to gather with the IU Community.
- Michelle asked that anyone who has group events or articles that are shareable, send them to her and she will help market them via the MLK Facebook and newsletter.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:46 pm.

Upcoming Meetings:

September 27, 5:00-6:00 pm, McCloskey Room

October 25, 5:00-6:00 pm, McCloskey Room

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